

In the Claims

1. (Original) A method of printing a trusted image, comprising:
an individual user electronically contacting a governmental agency, soliciting an image depicting the user stored in an archive maintained by said governmental agency;
electronically receiving said image from said contacted governmental agency; and
printing a document incorporating said image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which it is the individual user who receives said image and prints said document.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said document is a photo identification document.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said document is an identification badge.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the governmental agency is a motor vehicle licensing agency, and the image is a driver license photo.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said image is processed with an identification code by the governmental agency.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which said image is digitally watermarked with a plural-bit code by the governmental agency.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 in which said plural-bit code serves to identify the individual user's name.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 in which said plural-bit code comprises an index into a data structure in which the individual user's name is stored.

10. (Original) A document printed according to the method of 1.

11. (Original) A method of distributing a trusted image, comprising:

at a governmental agency, receiving an electronic request for an archived personal image from an individual depicted in said image; and
electronically transmitting said image to said individual.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 that includes processing said image with an identification code prior to said electronic transmission.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 that includes digitally watermarking said image with a plural-bit code prior to said electronic transmission.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which said plural-bit code serves to identify the individual's name.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which said plural-bit code comprises an index into a data structure in which the individual's name is stored.

16. (Original) A document printing method, comprising:

receiving a digital photo, the photo having plural-bit data steganographically encoded therein;
by reference to said steganographically encoded data, generating text to be printed with said photo; and
printing a document including both said photo and said text.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 that includes electronically transmitting at least a part of said plural-bit data to a remote computer, and receiving the text from said computer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, that includes receiving said digital photo from an archive of facial images.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 that includes receiving said digital photo from an image archive maintained by a government agency.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which said document is an identification document.

21. (New) A method of providing an access credential for a person, using a computer device for which the person is the proprietor, the method comprising:

receiving at said computer device code data, transmitted by an authority, the code data having a future time or date associated therewith;

steganographically encoding said code data in a graphic; and

presenting the encoded graphic as an access credential, to gain access to a restricted area.

22. (New) The method of claim 22 that includes steganographically encoding said code data in said graphic using said computer device.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 that includes printing said encoded graphic using a printer for which said person is also the proprietor, and presenting the printed graphic as said access credential.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 in which the access credential authorizes entry to an event, the event taking place at said future time or date.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the event is a movie.

26. (New) The method of claim 21 that includes receiving said graphic from a governmental agency.